observations about the presence of Diethelene glycol in toothpastes made in China. State Drugs Controllers have been asked to carry out survey and testing of Chinese toothpaste, if any found in the market, for the presence of Diethelene glycol.

Clinical establishment Bill

1434. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the proposed Bill to regulate all clinical establishments in the country;

(b) whether the Bill is going to be introduced in the current session of the Parliament;

(c) if so, the details of minimum medical standards proposed in the Bill;

(d) whether the Bill is going to address the issue of hospitals which have taken land at a cheaper rate with a condition that it would provide treatment to a certain percentage of poor people free of cost but are not extending the same; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) It is proposed to introduce a legislation namely the Clinical Establishments (Regulation and Registration) Bill, 2007 in the current session of the Parliament. The Bill seeks to provide for registration and regulation of clinical establishments in the country.

A National Council for clinical establishments shall determine the standards for clinical establishments, classify the clinical establishment into different categories, develop the minimum standards and their periodic review, compile, maintain and update a national register of clinical establishments, perform any other function determined by the Central Government, from time to time.

Further, no person shall carryon a clinical establishment unless it has been registered in accordance with the provisions of the proposed Bill. However, this would not apply to the clinical establishments of the Armed Forces.

The proposed legislation provides for maintenance of register of clinical establishments at the district level, State level and the National level.

Any person who contravenes any provision of the proposed legislation or any rules made there under shall be liable to be punished with fine.

(d) to (e) The proposed Bill does not cover the issue of hospitals which have taken land at a cheaper rate with a condition that it would provide treatment to a certain percentage of poor free of cost but are not extending the same as it is a specific matter to be tackled by the agencies which had allotted the land to such hospitals.